Fixing Potholes of the Information Superhighway
A Project Proposal By Stephen Michael Kellat

It remains an open issue as to whether or not the "Digital Divide" is resolved. It seems that what was a numbers game has now switched to a game of varying quality. With the continuing rise of efforts to provide Internet access to the less privileged such as Outernet and Kwiizi, there are still efforts underway to try to reach areas that do have Internet access even though it is perceived as less than optimal access quality.

Efforts have taken place in a variety of realms to address different aspects of this quality gap. These strands have gone in different directions. Evaluation of one or more projects on an in-depth basis would allow for consideration of how it contributes to the knowledge ecology.

Research projects take time and money. This is not a project that can take place working from home as there is no longer room where I can work from home. As I am not a tax-exempt entity there would be regulatory compliance costs to be met. Over the course of two years the following budget is planned:

Facilities	$24,000.00
Telecomms	$3,600.00
Compliance	$14,400.00
Compensation	$38,000.00
Total	$80,000.00

This would result in subsistence compensation while leasing space and meeting legal compliance costs to operate an experimental project.

Over the course of two years it is proposed to evaluate the Outernet project. Dissemination of information through that platform would be reviewed. As a professionally trained librarian, the standards for developing the information collection for distribution will be evaluated. At the end of two years there would be at least one paper produced and one conference presentation made.

A list of background resources located so far through opportunistic searching is included. Donations are sought to ensure that this project can take place on a somewhat full-time basis with an effective pay rate slightly above Ohio's 2016 minimum wage. For the ease of tax compliance donations are accepted via the Generosity platform at https://www.generosity.com/education-fundraising/fixing-potholes-of-the-information-superhighway which insures fewer adverse tax consequences for donors and the end recipient. Use of the Generosity platform is in lieu of taking donations directly as the business back-end to support the accounting and tax compliance for that currently does not exist.

Support is sought to make this project happen. Reviewing an effort like Outernet is important in the current legal and political environment not just for developing economies but for the United States too. The outcome of November's presidential election may result in changes to the Internet that few can anticipate now.

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